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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT

SUBJECT Uranium Mines (re production, work norms, plant description, manpower + deposits)

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report on uranium mining in Hungary. The report contains information on

1. Headquarters of the Bauxite Mining Corporation (Bauxit Banya Vállalat) which controls all uranium mining in Hungary (sketch attached).
2. Recent uranium-ore discoveries in the Vertes and Mecsek mountain regions, and in Balatonfüred on the western shore of the Balaton Lake.
3. Uranium mining in the Pécs-Bakonya area:

   a. location of administration buildings, partly guarded by Soviet troops, partly by AVH,
   b. Soviet administrative and technical staff,
   c. labor force,
   d. daily production output,
   e. average uranium content of the ore mined,
   f. geological features,
   g. work norms,
   h. shaft layout (sketch attached),
   i. explosives and drillings.

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Controlling Organisation.

1. All uranium mining in HUNGARY is controlled by the Bauxite Mining Corporation (BAUXIT BANYA VALLALAT), PECS. A sketch of the headquarters buildings will be found at Appendix A.

Recent Uranium Ore Discoveries.

2. a) Although the areas VERTES and MECSEK have been known for some time to be very rich in uranium ore, geological tests did not start until 1952 and experimental drilling still continues.

b) A very rich vein of uranium ore (8%) was discovered at BALATONFÜRED and experimental drilling was started there between June and July 1956. Plans were issued in August 1956 for the establishment of a mine there and at the same time workers were drafted from PECS BAKONYA to BALATONFÜRED.

3. PECS BAKONYA.

a) Location and Building. The management and administrative buildings which are guarded partly by Russian troops and partly by the A.V.H. are situated in a small village 800 metres south-west of BAKONYA, which is 12 kms. north of PECS. The General Manager of the mine is a Russian (name not known) and there are teams of Russian engineers, technicians, geologists and production experts.

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.... b)

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b) Number of Workers. The total number of workers is 800 working in three shifts of eight hours each.

c) Production Rate. A total of 1½-2 railway wagons of ore a day are brought up to the surface.

d) Quality. The average uranium content of the ore mined is 3% - 4%.

e) Sorting of Ore. All ore mined is brought to the surface and selection is done at the main shaft entrance where trucks coming to the surface and registering a low uranium content are dumped (further details not known).

f) Geology. i) The uranium ore looks like ordinary mineral salt and is described as glistening, very hard and a greyish-bluish colour.

ii) Generally speaking, the uranium ore veins are horizontal and the average thickness of the vein is 80-90 cms. with a maximum of 1½-2 metres.

g) Norms of Work. The norm for one 8-man team at the face working by machine is 100 metres per month, whereas a team of 8 working with pick and shovel are required to fulfil a norm of 50 metres per month.

h) Layout of Shafts, etc. See diagram at Appendix B. Whereas machines are in continuous use in shafts S.2, S.3 and S.4, shaft S.1 is worked by pick and shovel.

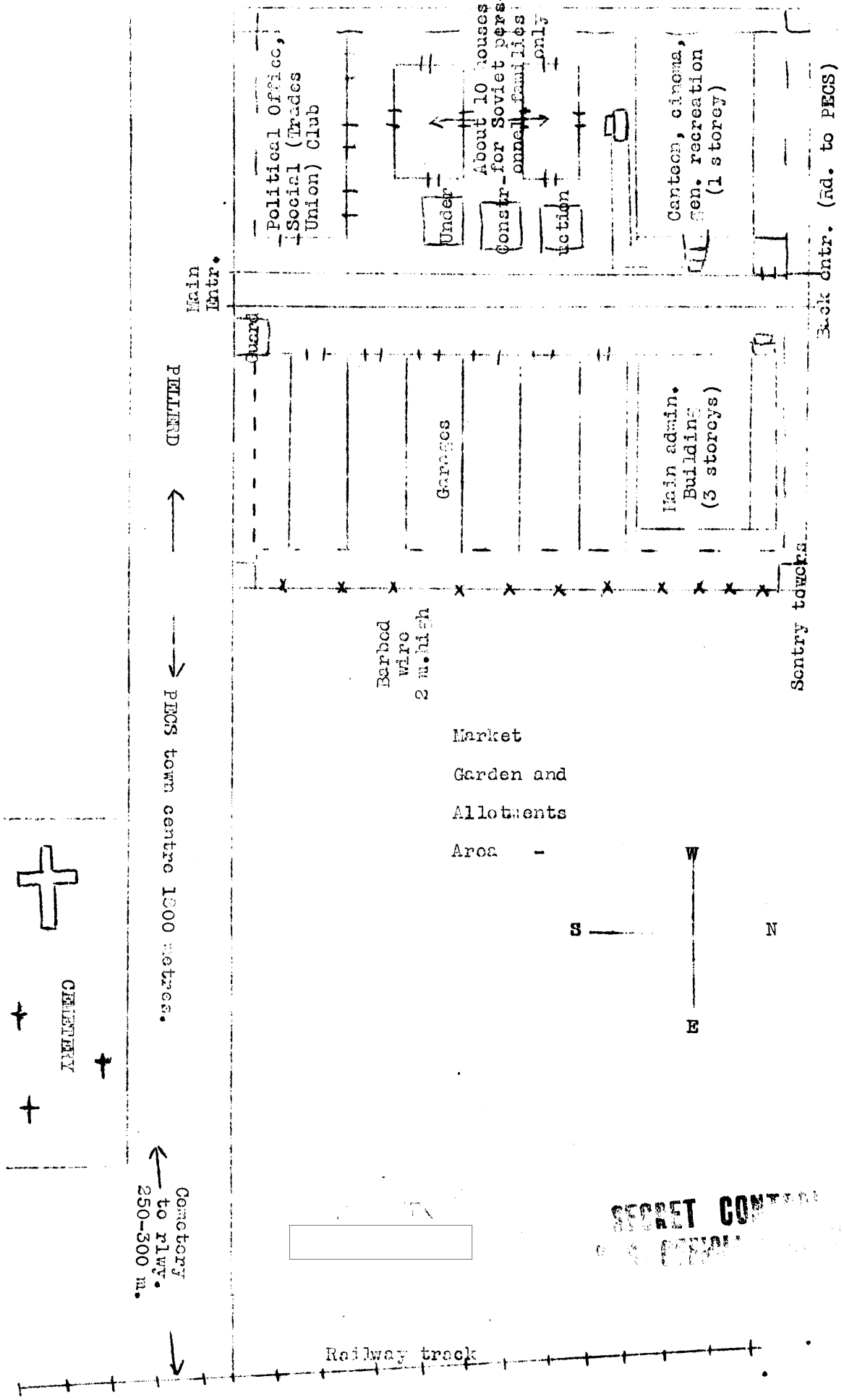
i) Explosives and Drilling.

i) Two to three blastings are made during each 8-hour shift in each of the 4 shafts. Charges are of dynamite or nitro-glycerine for hard ore and of Paxit for softer ore.

ii) Three to four kgs. of dynamite or nitro-glycerine are required to blast an area 1½ metres deep by 2.2 metres high. To blast the same area of soft ore 10-15 kgs. of Paxit are used. In both cases 8-9 drilling holes are made to receive the charge. For areas of 3 metres depth by 2.20 metres high 10-11 holes are drilled and 25 kgs. of Paxit are used for soft ground whereas 7-8 kgs. of dynamite or nitro-glycerine are used for hard ground.

iii) Owing to the hardness of the ore the drilling heads of the machines are made of diamonds and wolfram carbide.

APPENDIX A.



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APPENDIX B.

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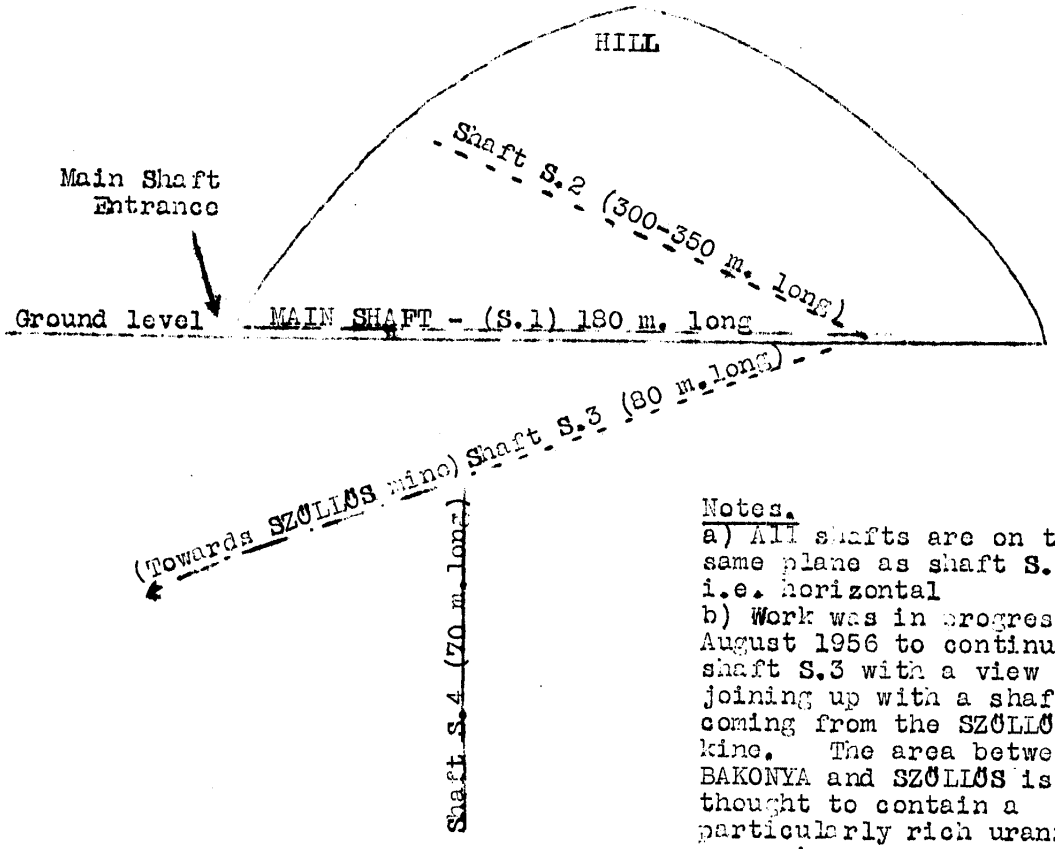
PECS BAKONYA Uranium Mine.

Diagram of SHAFTS (Mid-1956).



Notes.
a) All shafts are on the same plane as shaft S.1 i.e. horizontal
b) Work was in progress in August 1956 to continue shaft S.3 with a view to joining up with a shaft coming from the SZÖLLÖS mine. The area between BAKONYA and SZÖLLÖS is thought to contain a particularly rich uranium ore vein.

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